IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An actuator assembly comprising:

an actuator drivingly connected to an output member by a transmission path, ~~wherein~~ and said actuator moves said output member about a pivot point in a first direction from a rest position to an actuated position and moves said output member in a second direction from said actuated position to said rest position; and

an energy storing member which provides a force having a line of action, ~~wherein~~ and movement of said output member by said actuator in said first direction is assisted by said energy storing member, and movement of said output member by said actuator in said second direction stores energy in said energy storing member, and with said output member in said rest position, said line of action of said force ~~acts~~ substantially passes through said pivot point.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein a resultant torque is not generated on said output member because said line of action of said force ~~acts~~ substantially passes through said pivot point when said output member is in said rest position.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The actuator assembly according to claim 1 wherein said energy storing member is positioned such that said line of action of said force ~~acts~~ passes through said pivot point of said output member.

4. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly according to claim 1 wherein said energy storing member acts on said output member.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The actuator assembly according to claim 4 wherein said output member includes an abutment, and said energy storage member acts on said abutment of said output member.

6. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly according to claim 5 wherein said abutment moves about said pivot point as said output member moves.

7. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly according to claim 5 wherein said abutment is a crank pin.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The actuator assembly according to claim 1 wherein said energy storing member provides an assistance force as said output member moves in said first direction, and said assistance force progressively increases to a maximum and then decreases from said maximum.

9. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly according to claim 1 wherein said energy storing member is a helical spring.

10. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly according to claim 9 wherein said helical spring includes a circular portion including at least one coil and at least one arm which acts on said output member.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The actuator assembly according to claim 10 wherein said helical spring includes a second arm which acts on a fixed abutment.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An actuator assembly comprising:

an actuator drivingly connected to an output member by a transmission path, ~~wherein~~ and said actuator moves said output member about a pivot point in a first direction from a rest position to an actuated position and moves said output member in a second direction from said actuated position to said rest position; and

an energy storing member which provides a force, ~~wherein~~ and movement of said output member by said actuator in said first direction is assisted by said energy storing member over a substantial portion of said movement to said actuated position, and movement of said output member by said actuator in said second direction stores energy in said energy storing member over a substantial portion of said movement to said rest position, and with said output member in said rest ~~condition~~position, said force acts to drive said output member in said second direction.

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20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The actuator assembly according to claim 1 wherein said output member includes an abutment, and said energy storing member contacts said abutment of said output member.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The actuator assembly according to claim 1 wherein said actuator is ~~operable~~ configured to move a component of a latch assembly from a first position to a second position to change a state of the latch assembly.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The actuator assembly according to claim 12 wherein said output member includes an abutment, and said energy storing member contacts said abutment of said output member.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)The actuator assembly according to claim 12 wherein said actuator is ~~operable~~ configured to move a component of a latch assembly from a first position to a second position to change a state of the latch assembly.